

## **REMARKS**

Further to the "Statement of the Substance of the Interview" already submitted to the Office for this application and received by the Office on December 9, 2005, applicants' undersigned representative again thanks Examiner Starks for the in-person interview held at the Office on December 2, 2005. The time and attention devoted to this application by Examiner Starks is very much appreciated, especially given the critical importance of this application to the assignee, Affinova, Inc.

Affinova's other applications that Examiner Starks is handling (i.e., USSN 10/831,881 and USSN 11/229,020) also are of critical importance to the company, as are two other pending applications owned by Affinova but being handled by Examiner Romain Jeanty of the Office's Group 3623 and Examiner Scott L. Jarrett of the same Group 3623. These two other applications are USSN 10/852,356 and USSN 10/881,154, respectively. Examiner Starks is urged to consult with these other Examiners in Group 3623 if that would help in the prosecution of any or all of these five applications owned by Affinova.

Claims 1-144 are canceled by this Response. Prior to this Response, claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-19, and 118-144 were pending, but each of those claims is canceled hereby. Claims 4, 11, and 20-117 were canceled previously.

New claims 145-165 are added by this Response, and only new claims 145-165 are now pending.

New claims 145-164 generally correspond to originally filed claims 20-25 and 117. Some of the language recited in each of independent claims 145 and 154 is similar to that recited in some of the claims in USSN 10/831,881 that Examiner Starks has already allowed.

New claim 165 has been added to address a possible situation in which a competitor of Affinova runs its operations from a server located outside of the United States but competes with Affinova in the United States using participants located in the United States.

Support for each of the new claims can be found throughout the originally filed

application. For example, see paragraphs [0002], [0039], [0053], and [0192]-[0198].

Applicants submit that new claims 145-165 are allowable and that the rejections in the action (mailed October 17, 2005) do not apply to any of new claims 145-165 given that new claims 145-165 clearly are not directed to abstract ideas or any other type of non-statutory subject matter and also are otherwise patentable.

Applicants further submit that the non-statutory rejection of previously pending claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-19, and 118-144 was not appropriate, and that none of those previously pending claims was directed to abstract ideas or any other type of non-statutory subject matter either.

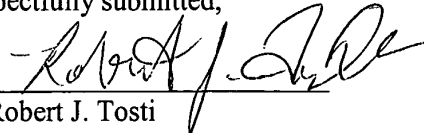
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, applicants request reconsideration, withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all new claims (i.e., claims 145-165) in due course.

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Respectfully submitted,

By



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